

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9355

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3895

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, JO, IS, XF

SUBJECT: GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S MEETING WITH JORDANIAN

AMBASSADOR NUSEIBEH

1. SUMMARY. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR NUSEIBEH TOLD GOVERNOR SCRANTON SEPT 22 HE EXPECTED ARABS TO TREAT ME ISSUES IN LOW KEY AT 31ST UNGA, IN PARTICULAR ZIONISM/RACISM. HE EMPHASIZED NEED FOR SOME MOVEMENT, HOWEVER, OR AT MINIMUM A "FREEZING" OF SITUATION IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. SCRANTON NOTED DIFFICULTY OF ACTION TOWARD SETTLEMENT BEFORE SOME SORT OF STABILITY IN LEBANON. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR JORDANIAN SUPPORT ON KOREAN QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING COURTESY CALL ON GOVERNOR SCRANTON SEPT 22, NEW JORDANIAN PERMREP HAZEM NUSEIBEH MADE PLEA FOR SOME MOVEMENT ON ME SETTLEMENT OR AT LEAST A "FREEZING" OF SITUATION IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. IF ISRAEL CONTINUES TO "DEVOUR" TERRITORIES, HE SAID, THERE WOULD BE LITTLE LEFT TO SETTLE. ARABS DEPEND PRIMARILY ON US FOR INITIATIVE
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TOWARD SOLUTION, HE NOTED. GOVERNOR SCRANTON ASSURED

NUSEIBEH OF USG DETERMINATION TO DO WHATEVER POSSIBLE TO MOVE THINGS FORWARD BUT NOTED NEED FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SOME KIND OF STABILITY IN LEBANON FIRST, SINCE EVERYONE SEES THIS AS PARAMOUNT PROBLEM IN AREA AT PRESENT.

3. IN RESPONSE TO SCRANTON'S EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT ME ISSUES WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN LESS CONTENTIOUS FASHION THAN SOMETIMES IN PAST, NUSEIBEH SAID SOME INDICATION OF MOVEMENT WOULD HELP IN THIS DIRECTION. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT ARABS WOULD PLAY THINGS IN LOW KEY THIS YEAR, IN PART BECAUSE "WE FEEL A BIT ASHAMED" IN LIGHT OF EVENTS IN LEBANON. HE UNDERSTOOD ZIONISM/RACISM ISSUE WOULD NOT BE PRESSED AS IT HAD "DONE MORE HARM THAN GOOD." SITUATION WAS NOT YET CLEAR, BUT HE BELIEVED SYRIA WOULD WANT DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM ON "SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST", AS IT FELT ITEM ON "QUESTION OF PALESTINE" DID NOT REALLY COVER SYRIA'S INTERESTS.

3. DURING GENERAL DISCUSSION, NUSEIBEH VOICED PERSONAL CONVICTION THAT, RABAT ASIDE, ANY ME SETTLEMENT WOULD HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF TWO CONSIDERATIONS: A) IT IS LITERALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SEPARATE EAST AND WEST BANKS OF JORDAN BECAUSE OF CLOSE TIES BETWEEN PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES; AND B) PALESTINIANS MUST HAVE SOME RECOGNITION OF THEIR IDENTITY. HE REFERRED TO LEBANESE SITUATION AS "NIGHTMARE" AND, WHILE NOTING JORDANIAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS VERY GOOD AT PRESENT, SUGGESTED SYRIA MIGHT HAVE DONE MORE "PREPARATORY" WORK BEFORE INTERVENTION IN LEBANON.

4. SCRANTON USED OCCASION TO THANK NUSEIBEH FOR JORDAN'S SUPPORT ON QUESTION OF GA CONSIDERATION OF KOREA. NUSEIBEH THOUGHT US POSITION "VERY SOUND".
SCRANTON

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